

MINUTES CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF ORANGE TOWNSHIP
NEW JERSEY

THIS IS A SPECIAL MEETING TO HOLD A BUDGET WORKSHOP OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ORANGE TOWNSHIP HELD VIA AUDIO-VIDEO CONFERENCING ON TUESDAY, APRIL 29, 2025, 7:00PM.

Roll Call:

Present: Councilmember Kerry J. Coley, East Ward
Council Vice President Tency A. Eason, North Ward
Councilmember Quantavia L. Hilbert, West Ward (*Arrived at 7:03pm*)
Councilmember Weldon M. Montague, III, At-Large
Councilmember Clifford R. Ross, At-Large
Councilmember Jamie B. Summers-Johnson, South Ward (*Arrived at 7:05pm*)
Councilmember Adrienne K. Wooten, At-Large

Also Present: Chris M. Hartwyk, Business Administrator
Nile Clements, Chief Financial Officer
Gracia R. Montilus, Esq., City Attorney
Marlin G. Townes, Legislative Research Officer
Blair Landolfi, Budget Consultant
Tamara Robinson, Deputy City Clerk
Margarette Homere, City Clerk's Office
Trisha Scipio, City Clerk's Office
Aaron Mizrahi, Deputy City Attorney
Hon. Michael Hackett, C.J.M.C., Municipal Chief Judge
James Moss, Municipal Court Director
Tina Dhanwa, Municipal Court Administrator
Todd Warren, Police Director
Vincent Vitiello, Police Chief
Chris Bailey, 2025 CBAC Member
Marsha Escalliere, 2025 CBAC Member
Carl Fields, Jr., 2025 CBAC Member
Janicea Jones-Vance, 2025 CBAC Member
Shara Morrow, 2025 CBAC Member
Carol Perkins, 2025 CBAC Member
Charles H. Pryor, II, 2025 CBAC Member
Coram Rimes, 2025 CBAC Member
Tonia M. Womack, 2025 CBAC Member
Jeffery L. Wingfield, 2025 CBAC Member
Dennis Motley
Veronica Scott

Absent: Joyce Lanier, City Clerk

The City Clerk announced a Moment of Silence.

The requirements of N.J.S.A. 10:4-9 et. seq., "Sunshine Law" has been met. A notice of this meeting was sent to the Record Transcript, published in The Star Ledger on April 25, 2025, posted on the City's Website (www.orangetwpnjcc.org) and the Council's Website (www.orangenj.gov) and filed in the Office of the City Clerk

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

The budget workshop focused on the financial planning for the City of Orange Township for the fiscal year 2025. Deputy Clerk Tamara Robinson facilitated the session, during which Council President Adrienne K. Wooten proposed a change to the agenda to allow public questions before departmental presentations. This adjustment aimed to enhance efficiency, although Council Vice President Tency A. Eason raised concerns about the feasibility of public inquiries without prior presentations. The Municipal Court was prioritized for presentation due to Judge Hackett's time constraints.

Councilmember Clifford R. Ross requested an impact statement.

Calendar Year Budget 2025 - Budget Workshop

Chief Financial Officer Nile Clements opened the floor to the Departments presenting.

CFO Nile Clements presented the proposed budget, reflecting a 0.7% increase from the previous year, with a notable rise in taxation. The budget's primary challenges stemmed from decreased revenues, particularly in construction code fees, and a significant increase in pension costs. Councilmember Clifford R. Ross sought clarification on these financial drivers, emphasizing the need for transparency regarding the budget's implications. Following this, Judge Michael Hackett and his team provided updates on the Orange Municipal Court's operations, highlighting the success of their internship program and the introduction of a monthly conflict court session aimed at improving case management.

Tina Dhanwa, Municipal Court Administrator addressed the financial impacts of rising postal costs and an increasing city population on court operations, noting a surge in parking ticket notices. She also discussed the need for additional legal resources due to the transfer of cases from other departments, which has increased the court's workload. Dhanwa presented budget adjustments, including a reduction in interpreting services and a decrease in printing costs due to the police department's transition to e-ticketing. The court's budget request for 2025 was outlined, with concerns raised by Councilmember Clifford R. Ross regarding the allocation for overtime, which was expected to increase due to anticipated conflict sessions.

The law department's budget request was also discussed, with Council Vice President Tency A. Eason questioning the necessity of certain line items. CFO Nile Clements clarified the rationale behind the budget allocations, while discussions on settlement line items and uncollected fines highlighted the complexities of the budget process. Chief Vincent Vitiello emphasized the challenges faced due to limited resources while detailing various revenue streams that support the department's budget. The Police Department's budget request for 2025 was presented, showing a decrease in salaries and wages, and discussions included community engagement initiatives and the rising costs of mandatory training programs for officers.

The Law Department's budget request for 2025 was discussed, with Nile Clements noting the total was down from the previous year. Council Vice President Tency A. Eason inquired about the purpose of a legal stipend, while City Attorney Gracia R. Montilus explained the need for additional administrative support. Councilmember Clifford R. Ross questioned the rationale behind budgeting amounts for office supplies and training that were not fully utilized in the past year.

The discussion focused on budget settlements, with Council Vice President Tency A. Eason seeking clarification on specific line items on pages 40 and 41. CFO Nile Clements explained the categorization of settlements and addressed questions regarding the closure of certain settlements within the budget year. Business Administrator Chris Hartwyk confirmed the multi-year nature of some settlements.

Police Chief Vincent Vitiello presented the budget for the Orange Police Department, acknowledging the financial challenges while reaffirming the department's dedication to community safety. He mentioned various revenue sources, including funds from the record room and firearms permits, which help support operations. Vitiello also noted the impact of personnel losses on enforcement capabilities.

CFO Nile Clements outlined the Police Department's 2025 budget request for salaries and wages, reflecting a reduction from the prior year. Clements noted that certain positions would be eliminated, including a public safety tele communicator trainee. Councilmember Clifford R. Ross raised questions regarding the holiday pay and education stipend, which were explained as contractual obligations that had not been accounted for separately in the previous year.

Police Chief Vitiello outlined initiatives aimed at enhancing community engagement, citing a recent event that attracted significant participation from local officers. Councilmember Clifford R. Ross expressed concerns about budget constraints, suggesting a reduction in funding for community programs from \$20,000 to \$10,000. Vitiello acknowledged the desire to lower costs while maintaining effective outreach.

CBAC 2025 was represented by Jeffery Wingfield

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilmember Jamie B. Summers-Johnson and seconded by Councilmember Quantavia L. Hilbert

Motion Adopted

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22pm.

Approved: May 20, 2025



Joyce L. Lanier
City Clerk



Adrienne K. Wooten
Council President